

Virginia Youth Animal Science



Newsletter



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APRIL 2025

State 4-H/FFA Meats Evaluation Contests Results!

The 2025 4-H/FFA State Meats Evaluation Contest was hosted by the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club in Blacksburg on March 1st. This year's event hosted 128 entries in the 4-H and FFA Divisions, coming from over 20 chapters/units across the state of Virginia.

This event serves as the State Contest for both 4-H and FFA, and the winning teams in each senior division earn the opportunity to represent their organization at the National Level Contest this fall. Competing for that honor, teams had to identify meat cuts, place different classes of meats, complete a written exam,

present a set of oral reasons, and complete a grading activity.

Special thank yous are due to Block and Bridle Contest Chairperson, Katie Powell, as well as contest officials, Dr. Mark Wahlberg, Mark Gwin, and Richard Preisser for their efforts in planning, preparation, and execution of the day's contests. Additionally, sponsorships were provided by Creative Virtue Crafts and Smithfield Foods to support the purchase of awards and meat cuts for all contests.

Full Contest Results are posted online at judging-card.com.

Results:

Senior FFA High Teams:

1. Central FFA
2. Broadway FFA—A
3. Bradway FFA—B
4. Sherando FFA
5. Craig FFA

Senior 4-H High Teams:

1. Augusta 4-H—A
2. Frederick 4-H
3. Rockingham 4-H—A

Junior FFA High Teams:

1. J Frank Hillyard—A
2. Wilson Middle—A
3. Wilbur S Pence—A
4. Nelson—A
5. James River—A

Junior 4-H High Teams:

1. Rockingham 4-H—A
2. Rockbridge 4-H
3. Botetourt 4-H
4. Appomattox 4-H

High Individuals

Senior FFA:

Emory Seal, Fort Defiance FFA

Senior 4-H:

Emory Seal, Augusta 4-H

Junior FFA:

Alexis Davis, Wilson Middle FFA

Junior 4-H:

Kendal Ballenger, Frederick 4-H



UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL

4/3 Shenandoah Valley Youth Cattle Working

4/5 New River Valley Youth Cattle Working

4/4—4/6 State 4-H/FFA Eq uismartz Contests, Lexington, VA

4/9 Central Virginia Youth Cattle Working

4/12 SWVA Youth Cattle Working

4/17 State Youth Cattle Working Contest, Harrisonburg, VA

4/18-4/19 Virginia Junior Beef Round Up, Harrisonburg, VA

4/22 State 4-H/FFA Dairy Skillathon, Harrisonburg, VA

4/25 State Poultry Evaluation Contest, Harrisonburg, VA

MAY

5/1 4HOnline Declarations Open—State Horse Show

5/30-6/1 Judge Like A Champion Livestock Judging Camp, Harrisonburg, VA

*The full Youth Animal Science calendar can be found using the link below:



Block and Bridle Livestock Weekend Contests: Results are in!

The 2025 Block and Bridle Stockmen's and Livestock Judging Contests were held on March 15-16, 2025 in Blacksburg, VA; following weather related postponement in February. The contests hosted 863 total entries in all divisions of both contests. Special thanks is extended to the Block and Bridle Club, as well as contest chair-persons Megan Mallory and Brooklyn Davis for their efforts in planning and running this event. Additionally, thank you to contest officials and coaches/parents for spending your time and effort making this contest a successful learning opportunity for all! Full results are posted online at judging-card.com.

Stockmen's

Top 5 Junior Teams:

1. J Frank Hillyard FFA—A
2. Frederick 4-H— A
3. Rockbridge 4-H
4. Orange 4-H — A
5. Buffalo Gap Middle—A

Top 5 Senior Teams:

1. Rockingham 4-H—A
2. Frederick 4-H— B
3. Bedford 4-H
4. Frederick 4-H—A
5. James Wood FFA—A

Livestock Judging

Top 5 Junior Regular Teams:

1. Orange 4-H—A
2. Rockbridge 4-H—A
3. Amherst Middle FFA—B
4. Amherst Middle FFA—C
5. Buffalo Gap Middle FFA—A

Top 5 Senior Regular Teams:

1. Broadway FFA
2. Frederick 4-H
3. Page FFA—A
4. Bland 4-H— A
5. Craig FFA—A

Top 5 Junior Advanced Teams:

1. Augusta 4-H—A
2. Frederick 4-H— A
3. Unicoi 4-H—A
4. Rockingham 4-H—A
5. Shenandoah 4-H—A

Top 5 Senior Advanced Teams:

1. Wythe 4-H
2. Rockingham 4-H—A
3. Lebanon 4-H
4. Augusta 4-H—A
5. Unicoi 4-H—A



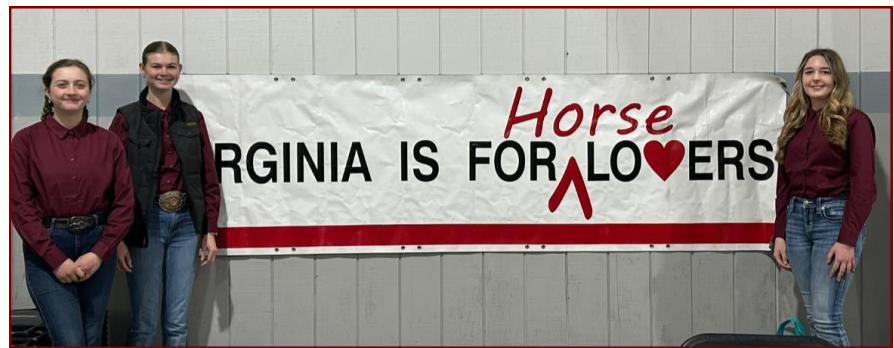
4-H Horse Ambassadors Spread the Word at Rockingham Cooperative Equine Expo

The Rockingham Cooperative Equine Expo was held on Saturday, March 15 at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA. The event saw over 250 participants entering the fairgrounds for opportunities including educational seminars, reduced cost vaccines, vendors, and feed sales.

The Virginia 4-H Horse Ambassadors hosted the Youth Education Station at the Equine Expo. This station included coloring and drawing opportunities for younger attendees as well as opportunities to practice feed and equipment ID and horse judging for older youth and adult attendees! Ambassadors Emma Ranson (Buckingham), Brettin Trimbath (James City), and Zoe Bowman (King George) travelled to Rockingham to represent Virginia 4-H at this event.

In addition to providing games and coloring, the three ambassadors talked with adults, youth, and even some 4-H volunteers present about opportunities within the 4-H Horse Program and how they can get involved.

Thank you to the event planning team and the Rockingham Cooperative for your continuous support of youth animal science events and the promotion of 4-H and FFA within your territory and across the State.



So What is a Horseless Horse Show?

Leslie Prillaman, 4-H Agent in Roanoke, has been a long time host of Southwest Virginia's Horseless Horse Show. This year's show was held on Thursday, March 13th in Shawsville, Virginia.

The Horseless Horse Show offers a unique opportunity for equine-interested youth who may or may not have access to live animals to ride to still have an opportunity to compete and showcase their equine knowledge. Youth are able to bring and share model horses to show in 12 different classes. This year's classes included Color Breeds, Draft Horses, English Pleasure, Western Pleasure, and more!

During their class, participants interact with real horse show judges to share their knowledge of horses and horse-

manship. Questions asked by judges may include information about gaits, colors, breeds, types, and conformation, as well as proper tack and attire.

While this opportunity is meaningful in the practice and preparation of their equine knowledge, it also provides 4-Her's the opportunity to practice public speaking skills, decision making, and teamwork throughout the evening's event.

Congratulations to all youth who participated in this year's 4-H Horseless Horse Show! Be sure to keep it on your calendar for 2026!

Pictured: Zida Large (Roanoke) and Kendall Ratcliff (Montgomery)



Recapped: State 4-H/FFA Skillathon

The 2025 State 4-H and FFA Skillathon Contest was held on Wednesday, March 26th at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, VA. The event saw over 350 contestants from 51 Units and Chapters. Team members had to complete Judging, Questions, Quizzes, Quality Assurance Activities, and Team Activities for a chance at the top spot in this event! For Senior 4-Hers, this contest also holds a special opportunity, as the top two teams earned the opportunity to represent Virginia at National Level Contests. The Champion Senior Team will represent Virginia at the National 4-H Skillathon and the Reserve Champion Senior Team will represent at the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest. Both contests are held during NAILE in Louisville, KY.

Junior

Top 5 Junior Teams:

1. Frederick 4-H– Team A
2. J Frank Hillyard– Team A
3. J Frank Hillyard– Team B
4. Rockbridge 4-H
5. Orange 4-H– Team A

Top 5 Junior Individuals:

1. Kendal Ballenger– Frederick
2. Sedona Sifford– Fauquier
3. Bryar Swecker– Rockingham
4. Hailey Ballenger-Frederick
5. Swayer Zollman-Rockbridge
6. Averie Keller– J Frank Hillyard
7. Sutton Swecker-Rockingham
8. Noah Barb– J Frank Hillyard
9. Sydney White– J Frank Hillyard
10. Rylie Floyd-J Frank Hillyard

Senior

Top 5 Senior Teams:

1. Frederick 4-H—B
2. Rockingham 4-H– A
3. Broadway FFA– A
4. Rockingham 4-H– B
5. Frederick 4-H– A

Top 10 Senior Individuals:

1. Emily Vincent—Frederick
2. Keller Cooley—Frederick
3. Ayla Janney—Rockingham
4. Karley Sonifrank - Rockingham
5. Sadie Houff—Rockingham
6. Emma Wisecarver– Frederick
7. Jackson Kelly– Frederick
8. Corinne Cooley—Frederick
9. Taylor Arbogast—Broadway
10. Wyatt Holloway– Rockingham



Meet The Youth Animal Science Team



Katherine Carter

Extension Youth
Animal Science
Specialist

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As the Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist, Katherine serves as our Team Leader, coordinating all youth animal science programs and events. She plans and provides oversight for all youth livestock and poultry events and works closely with Agents



Dave Winston

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As the Extension Dairy Youth Specialist, Dave coordinates the state dairy youth program. The program includes the Dairy Quiz Bowl, June Dairy Month 4-H Poster Contest, Dairy Judging, Dairy Fitting and Showmanship, and Dairy Foods.



Hunter Liles

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As an Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate, Hunter supports all youth animal science programs and events. She serves as the lead on many of our youth horse activities and events.



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